

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 247282

FOLLOWING REPEAT BRIDGETOWN 2669 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON,
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QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 2669

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS ICA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, DO

SUBJ: DOMINICA INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

REF: BRIDGETOWN 2232

1. SUMMARY: THERE FOLLOW EMBASSY'S PRELIMINARY
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING US PARTICIPATION FORTHCOMING
INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS IN DOMINICA. WE UNDERSTAND
CEREMONIES CLIMAX WITH LOWERING OF UNION JACK AND RAISING
OF DOMINICA FLAG AT MIDNIGHT THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2.
US GOVT'S ACTIONS RELATED TO DOMINICA'S INDEPENDENCE
CELEBRATIONS WILL BE VIEWED AS PRECEDENT FOR US RESPONSE
TO SIMILAR CEREMONIAL SITUATIONS TO ARISE IN CONNECTION
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PAGE 02 STATE 247282

WITH PROJECTED INDEPENDENCE OF ST. LUCIA, ST. VINCENT AND
ANGITUA. END SUMMARY.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE US GOVERNMENT'S FINAL
PLANS WITH RESPECT TO DOMINICA'S INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS.
EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REGARD FOLLOW.

END ACTION REQUESTED.

3. WHEN DOMINICA, WHICH IS SECOND OF WEST INDIES ASSOCIATED STATES TO ELECT ROUTE OF FULL NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY (GRENADA WAS FIRST IN 1974) RAISES ITS FLAG AT MIDNIGHT NOVEMBER 2, SOME ATTENTION WILL ACCRUE TO MANNER IN WHICH US GREETES NEWBORN STATE. WE SHOULD ENTER INTO DOMINICA'S ENTHUSIASM FOR MOMENT TEMPERED BY THE PRIVATE KNOWLEDGE THAT INDEPENDENCE OF THIS TINY ISLAND STATE IS ATTRIBUTABLE MORE TO BRITISH SUCCESS IN UNLOADING FORMER COLONY THAN DOMINICA'S READINESS FOR FULL STATEHOOD. ST. LUCIA AND ST. VINCENT WILL IN SHORT ORDER BE NEXT TO GO INDEPENDENT. PARTLY BECAUSE OF PRESEDENT WE SHALL BE SETTING, OUR PARTICIPATION IN DOMINICAN CELEBRATIONS SHOULD NOT BE EXCESSIVE. MODESTY WOULD ALSO BE IN KEEPING WITH CANADIAN PLANS NOT TO OVERSHADOW BRITISH.

4. BRITISH INTENTION, WE ADVISED BY LOCAL HIGH COMMISSION, IS TO HAVE PRINCESS MARGARET ROSE ATTEND CELEBRATIONS ALONG WITH MINISTER OF STATE (FYI ONLY, PROBABLY TED ROWLANDS). SHE IS EXPECTED TRAVEL FROM HER ISLAND RETREAT ON MUSTIQUE TO DOMINICA NOVEMBER 2 AND WILL DEPART DOMINICA NOVEMBER 4 (POSSIBLY NOVEMBER 5). ACCOMPANYING HER WILL BE DETECTIVE, PERSONAL MAID, LADY IN WAITING, PRIVATE SECRETARY, AND PROTOCOL OFFICER. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 247282

BRITAIN WILL ALSO DESPATCH WARSHIP (FRIGATE) CONCEIVED PARTLY AS LOGISTICAL SUPPORT. WE BELIEVE UK WILL PRESENT NEW STATE WITH A CEREMONIAL SPEAKER'S CHAIR. CANADIAN PLANS SUBDUED SO FAR. ACCORDING CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION, THEY INCLUDE SMALL DELEGATION LED BY JUNIOR CABINET MINISTER AND A MINOR POLITICAL FIGURE, AS WELL AS STILL UNCERTAIN VISIT BY WARSHIP (DESTROYER), AND TOKEN INDEPENDENCE GIFT OF CEREMONIAL MACE FOR USE BY SERGEANT-AT-ARMS IN PARLIAMENT.

5. SCHEDULE. INDEPENDENCE SECRETARIAT IN DOMINICA HAS URGED THAT ALL FOREIGN DELEGATIONS BE ON HAND TO WITNESS HANDLING OVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL INSTRUMENTS BY BRITISH AT 10 AM THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2 IN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. IN SECTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS BELOW, WE SUGGEST THAT U.S. DELEGATION ARRIVE IN DOMINICA ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, AND DEPART ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4. FOR GENERAL INFORMATION, HOWEVER, FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOLLOWS:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29
CROWNING OF INDEPENDENCE QUEEN AND CHORAL SINGING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

SPORTING, MUSICAL, OTHER CULTURAL EVENTS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

SPEECHES, CALYPSO COMPETITION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

STOCK CAR RALLY AND DANCE AT PORTSMOUTH

CADANCE (FOLK-DANCING) IN ROSEAU

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

10 AM DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES RECEIVE
FOREIGN DELEGATIONS AT HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 247282

BRITISH HAND OVER CONSTITUTIONAL INSTRUMENTS.

6 PM PUNCH PARTY AT GOVERNOR GENERAL'S RESIDENCE
FOLLOWED BY MILITARY DISPLAY AND PAGEANT AT
WINDSOR PARK IN ROSEAU. AT MIDNIGHT FLAGS
ARE RAISED AND LOWERED WITH FIREWORKS.
PRIME MINISTER PATRICK R. JOHN ADDRESSES WORLD.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

PARADE IN BOTANICAL GARDENS. REPRESENTATIVES OF
FOREIGN NATIONS DELIVER BRIEF ADDRESSES
CONGRATULATING DOMINICA ON INDEPENDENCE.

(NOTE: PRINCIPAL U.S. DELEGATE WILL BE EXPECTED
TO MAKE BRIEF REMARKS OF CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS
OCCASION.) AFTERNOON REGATTA. EVENING RECEPTION
AND DANCE HOSTED BY PRIME MINISTER.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

CARNIVAL AND JUMP UP.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS: FOLLOWING COMBINES EMBASSY
RECOMMENDATIONS WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF DEPARTMENT'S
THINKING TO DATE.

A. US DELEGATION SHOULD BE KEPT SMALL AND OF A RANK
ROUGHLY IN LINE WITH CANADIAN DELEGATION, ACCORDING
PRIDE OF PLACE TO BRITISH. IF POSSIBLE, IT SHOULD
ARRIVE IN BARBADOS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31 FOR EMBASSY
BRIEFING PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR DOMINICA NOVEMBER 1.
DEPARTURE FROM DOMINICA SHOULD BE NOVEMBER 4.

B. IF DEPARTMENT CAN CONFIRM THAT BRITAIN IS
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 247282

SENDING WARSHIP, WE RECOMMEND THAT U.S. NAVAL VESSEL ARRIVE AT DEEP WATER HARBOR, PORT OF ROSEAU, AFTERNOON OF WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1. WE MIGHT LATER RECOMMEND CHANGE IN TIMING WHEN WE KNOW WHAT BRITISH AND CANADIANS INTEND. AS OF NOW, WE WOULD NOT EXPECT DESTROYER TO HOST ANY SOCIAL ACTIVITIES BUT THIS COULD ALSO CHANGE. WE BELIEVE DEPARTMENT SHOULD INITIATE REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR WARSHIP SOONEST. (FYI, DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT HAS REQUESTED CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION THAT PLATOON FROM THEIR SHIP MARCH IN INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE. THUS FAR WE HAVE NO SUCH REQUEST. CANADIANS WOULD COMPLY IF WE AND BRITISH DID. WE PLAN NOT TO PURSUE THIS QUESTION ACTIVELY BUT WILL ADDRESS IT IF DOMINICANS MAKE REQUEST.)

C. WE SUGGEST THAT PROPOSED GIFT OF PLAQUE BEARING U.S. DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BE MADE AS TARNISH-PROOF AS POSSIBLE GIVEN HIGH HUMIDITY IN DOMINICA. PLEASE AIR SHIP TO EMBASSY BRIDGETOWN. ICA REQUESTED PROCEED FORTHWITH WITH SHIPPING PROPOSED REFERENCE LIBRARY MARKED FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER BRIDGETOWN SO THAT ALL GIFTS WILL ARRIVE AT EMBASSY WELL BEFORE NOVEMBER 1 AND CAN BE TRANSPORTED FROM BARBADOS TO DOMINICA BY METHOD MENTIONED IN "F" BELOW. WE UNDERSTAND GIFT OF AMBULANCE HAS ALSO BEEN DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON. NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE WOULD CONSIDER IT EXCELLENT ADDITION. SHIP AMBULANCE DIRECT TO ROSEAU CARE OF INDEPENDENCE SECRETARIAT IN PREMIER'S OFFICE WITH COPIES OF SHIPPING DOCUMENTS TO EMBASSY BRIDGETOWN FOR ADMINISTRATIVE FOLLOW-UP.

D. PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE. WE SUGGEST PERSONAL LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER ADDRESSED TO HONORABLE PATRICK R. JOHN, PRIME MINISTER OF DOMINICA, CONGRATULATING HIM AND PEOPLE OF DOMINICA ON INDEPENDENCE. LETTER SHOULD BE DATED NOVEMBER 3, 1978
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 247282

WITH ADVANCE TEXT FURNISHED EMBASSY BY TELEGRAM FOR PRESENTATION TO PRIME MINISTER JOHN ON NOVEMBER 3. ENCLOSED WITH LETTER WE RECOMMEND AN AUTOGRAPHED PHOTOGRAPH OF THE PRESIDENT.

E. WE SUGGEST US DELEGATION BE LODGED AT ANCHORAGE HOTEL AND HAVE MADE RESERVATIONS. ONLY THE PRINCIPAL

U.S. REP IS TO BE PROVIDED LODGING AND
INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION FREE OF CHARGE BY DOMINICA
GOVERNMENT.

F. DEPARTMENT SHOULD CONSIDER REQUESTING U.S. NAVY IN
ROOSEVELT ROADS FOR AIRCRAFT TO TRANSPORT US DELEGATION
(INCLUDING SMALL NUMBER US MISSION PERSONNEL) AND
INDEPENDENCE GIFTS FROM BARBADOS TO DOMINICA WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 1. IF POSSIBLE , AIRCRAFT SHOULD STAND BY FOR DEPARTURE OF
U.S.DELEGATION ON NOVEMBER 4.

G. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. INDEPENDENCE SECRETARIAT HAS
INFORMED US THERE WILL BE NO REPEAT NO OPPORTUNITIES
FOR US DELEGATION TO HOST SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.
NONETHELESS EMBASSY PROPOSES TRANSPORTING LIMITED
QUANTITY BEVERAGES TO DOMINICA FOR CONTINGENCY USE IN
CASE NEED FOR SMALL AD HOC REPRESENTATIONAL AFFAIR
PRESENTS ITSELF.

7. PLEASE INFORM EMBASSY OF DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL
THESE PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS SOONEST.
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UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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